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WORLD EXCLUSIVE

LINK OIL BILLIONAIRE TO JFK ASSASSINS

JFK Assassins Got $$ From Kennedy-Hating Billionaire

John F. Kennedy was assassinated by men who received money from the late billionaire H.L. Hunt, claims the former number one aide to the Texas oil tycoon.

But, said John W. Curington — Hunt's special assistant for 12 years — Hunt did not mastermind the killing. "It was a mistake. Right-wing Hunt followers knew he hated Kennedy and they thought they were doing what Hunt wanted."

Breaking his silence for the first time in an exclusive ENQUIRER interview, Curington linked Hunt to key figures in the assassination with these startling revelations:

- The day before Lee Harvey Oswald was shot by Jack Ruby at Dallas police headquarters, Hunt ordered Curington to spy on police security surrounding Oswald — and was "elated" to learn it was lax.
- Several weeks after JFK's death, Oswald's wife Marina was seen leaving the elevator that served Hunt's executive office.
- Later, the billionaire confided to top aides that he knew there was a conspiracy to kill Kennedy.

None of these facts has ever been brought to light despite years of probing by the FBI, Secret Service, police, Congressional committees and the Warren Commission.

Curington, 49, who from 1957 to 1969 wielded enormous power as the right-hand man of the eccentric, right-wing, Kennedy-hating Hunt, told The ENQUIRER: "An amazing group of political parasites was drawn to Hunt because of his radical right-wing views. These people were often working class Americans. They were not employees in the Hunt organization but they were paid in cold hard cash with Hunt money to promote his views.

"They were members of right-wing groups like the John Birch Society, Liberty Lobby and the KKK in New York, Washington, Dallas and other places where they distributed propaganda, reported on alleged Communist figures and wrote letters to the editor for publication in various newspapers."

When Hunt bankrolled these people, he gave Curington and other top aides bundles of cash up to $40,000 which were passed to lower aides who then distributed the cash to fringe right-wing radicals outside of the Hunt organization, said Curington. "One thing was certain — Hunt didn't want any receipts so that the money could be traced to him. There was a complete lack of control over how it was spent.

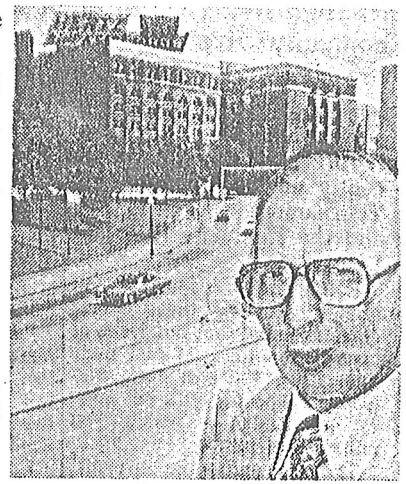
"Hunt became quite accessible by phone to certain fringe right-wingers. He traveled a great deal and met many of them while others would write to him and he sometimes gave them his special unlisted phone number."

By early 1960, Hunt went all out against Kennedy. "H.L. very much did not want Kennedy elected President and did everything he could to keep him from being elected," recalled religious TV personality Dr. W.A. Criswell, a close Hunt friend and pastor of the First Baptist Church in Dallas, the largest Baptist congregation in the U.S.

Said Curington: "Hunt was often heard by top aides and followers to say that America would be much better off without Kennedy.

"But these Hunt followers overreacted. Believing they were acting on Hunt's veiled instructions, they set out to eliminate Ken-

JACK RUBY SHOOTS Lee Harvey Oswald at Dallas police headquarters. The day before, Hunt was "elated" when he heard security for Oswald was lax.



BREAKS SILENCE: John W. Curington, H.L. Hunt's special assistant for 12 years, says JFK's killers "thought they were doing what Hunt wanted." In background is Dealey Plaza in Dallas, where President Kennedy was shot.

BILLIONAIRE
H.L. Hunt

"I'm convinced Oswald was a third-string parasite who was brought in to help in the whole affair."

To back up his belief, Curington recently turned over to the FBI a copy of a letter that he's convinced was written by Oswald to H.L. Hunt. After questioning Curington for several hours, the FBI made the letter public.

The handwritten letter — dated Nov. 8, 1963, exactly two weeks before the assassination — states: "Dear Mr. Hunt, I would like information concerning my position. I am asking only for information. I am suggesting that we discuss the matter fully before any steps are taken by me or anyone else. Thank you, Lee Harvey Oswald."

Three handwriting analysts — all certified with the International Graphoanalysis Society — concluded that it is "the authentic writing of Lee Harvey Oswald and was written by him."

Said Curington, who is writing a book about his years with Hunt: "I knew H.L. Hunt intimately for 12 years and I had access to confidential information. I'm convinced that Hunt unwittingly influenced the assassination of John F. Kennedy."

The suspicion of a link between Hunt and the assassination struck Curington's eyes immediately after JFK was slain. Curington recalled:

"The day after Oswald was arrested I was called urgently to Hunt's office. Hunt told me he wanted to find out what security measures surrounded Oswald at the Dallas police headquarters and city jail.

"I was an attorney and it just so happened on that very day a woman who did ironing for my family had asked my help because her husband had been arrested for driving while intoxicated and so that gave me a perfect official excuse for being at the police station.

"While the police were interrogating Oswald, I walked in and out of the station three times. I was never stopped or challenged and the briefcase which I carried was never searched — even when I ended up on the same elevator with Oswald and a policeman. Oswald had blood trickling from the corner of his mouth and a bloody Band-Aid on his forehead. I assumed he had been 'worked over' by the police.

ASSASSIN'S WIFE
Marina Oswald

"I could have easily killed him right then. During my visits to the station, I took all the time I needed to see where the exits, desk clerks, elevators and guards were.

"Late that night Hunt insisted I give him a full report of what I had seen inside the station, particularly the elevators which brought prisoners down from the holding cells.

"I told Hunt there was no security around Oswald. Hunt was delighted. He was elated. But he never told me why he wanted the report. I never questioned his orders — I just carried them out."

The next morning Jack Ruby walked into the police station and shot Oswald to death.

(Curington was the attorney for the man charged with drunk driving and appeared at the police station on Nov. 23, 1963, The ENQUIRER confirmed after checking police records and talking to relatives of the man.)

A few weeks after the shooting Curington found another suspicious connection between Hunt and the assassination. "It was a Saturday and I met H.L. at his office in downtown Dallas. He told me to lock up all the executive offices and then go to the ground floor and stop anyone — including staff — from using the elevators which went up to the executive offices.

"I saw no one come in. All other offices were closed. Then an elevator that serves the executive suite came down. A woman walked out. It was Marina Oswald. I have no doubt in my mind.

"I watched her get into a waiting car and a man drove her away."

When contacted by The ENQUIRER at her home 40 miles from Dallas, Marina, who has since remarried, emphatically denied she had ever visited H.L. Hunt. "I don't think I've ever met Mr. Hunt and I certainly never visited his offices," she said.

Despite her denial, Curington is convinced that the woman he saw was Marina. "I believe Hunt summoned her to find out what, if anything, Oswald had told her. Also Hunt could've been questioning her about Oswald's letter to him. Hunt always considered himself skilled at interrogating people, and he could've very easily arranged the meeting personally. There were times when he didn't trust anyone else."

When the Warren Commission was established, Hunt made sure he knew its every move, said Curington.

"H.L. was very interested in the Warren Commission investigation," he said. "We had an intelligence system set up so that we received daily reports from Washington on the commission's activities."

In 1967, said Curington, Hunt told his senior aides he knew there was a conspiracy to assassinate JFK and that Oswald did not act alone.

Hunt stressed this belief during a remarkable conversation with several top aides four years after the assassination, confirmed Walter Tabaka, 56, a Washington lobbyist for Hunt for nine years. Tabaka recalled:

"One of us suggested to Hunt that he put up a $100,000 reward for any information leading to the Kennedy assassination. Hunt said, 'If I do that I'll be a marked man within 48 hours.'

"I said, 'Mr. Hunt, do you mean there was a conspiracy?' His two words were: 'sure was.'"

Curington told The ENQUIRER: "This was confirmation for me that Hunt didn't just think there was a conspiracy — he knew.

"H.L. Hunt was a great patriot who believed what he was doing was right for America. It's so sad to think that his views were distorted by a few right-wingers who plunged America into tragedy."

— *WILLIAM DICK and KEN POTTER*

Key statements of John W. Curington were independently analyzed by two experts using the truth-detecting Psychological Stress Evaluator (PSE), a device so reliable that PSE results have been used in legal proceedings or accepted as court evidence in 14 states.

The experts — Charles R. McQuiston, co-inventor of the PSE, and Dorothy Kuharsky, of Verimetrics Corp., in Miami — carefully analyzed Curington's remarks, including his statements that right-wingers overreacted to H.L. Hunt's hatred of John F. Kennedy, that on Hunt's orders Curington checked police security surrounding Lee Harvey Oswald and that Curington did see Marina Oswald.

"I charted the entire interview and in my opinion what he (Curington) said he believed to be the truth," said Miss Kuharsky. Added McQuiston: "I concluded that he is telling the truth. He displayed no abnormal stress in stating the